

Sparks from Father Mark

As I mentioned in my Sparks last week my hope is to have a number of small groups, which could be previous Renewals groups or others small groups that would come together for six weeks of Lent to engage the practice of Lectio Divina using the seven step method of being formed in one of the scriptures reading in the Sunday Liturgy. There is a sign up in the Narthex if you would like to be part of this Lectio Divina journey through Lent this year. If you have any questions please give me a call. Look for more detailed information on another page within this bulletin to help fill out this seven step method, which comes to us out the faith experience of the people of Africa.

"The Council has opened up the Bible anew for the people. It has become for the small communities the most important communication/life-element... Now the faithful have the possibility to read the Bible together - to meditate on it in order to be able to live from it."

Ever since we have had translations in the most important regional languages, the Bible has become a very important source of everyday Christian living. Our people begin to live with the Bible... On account of the Bible we are just now on the way to becoming a people, a community."

The above words are from the African Cardinal Malula as he described the situation in his native country. The situation, however, may differ in other countries.

Perhaps our brothers and sisters in differing Churches of other African countries may find motivation and access to the Word of Life in this common prayerful and life-related approach to Sacred Scripture. Highlights for this method are listed below with more detailed information later in this bulletin.

THE SEVEN STEPS

The Seven Steps look very simple and indeed they are. Our experience in the dioceses of South Africa and elsewhere has shown us however that these "simple" steps may also lead up to an encounter with God and our fellow humans.

Steps 1-4 help us to "persevere" with God, to "listen" to participate in the biblical action, "to surrender ourselves to God".

Step 5 brings us together as brothers and sisters because we risk sharing our experience with God with one another. This is not the most important step, but it gives great joy to all those who want to build and experience a deeply human community in God.

In step 6 we confront our life with the Word of God. It is often the case that in this atmosphere of prayer, individuals discuss problems which they wish to resolve as a neighborhood group.

In step 7 all are invited to share in spontaneous prayer.

This Week at Our Lady of the Black Hills

Monday, February 23

St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr
Sirach 1:1-10; Psalms 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Mark 9:14-29 (red)

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

(Intention: For Improved Health of Don Higgins)

8:30 – 10:30 am: Staff Meeting

6:30 pm: Gatherings of Grace core team meeting

6:30 pm: Cub Scouts

Tuesday, February 24

Sirach 2:1-11; Psalms 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mark 9:30-37 (green)
6:00-9:00 am OLBH annual Mardi Gras breakfast in the rectory

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

(Intention: For Improved Health of Gordon Stark)

7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wednesday, February 25

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18; Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (violet)

8:00 am: Ash Wednesday Liturgy

(Intention: Healing for those who have been affected by sexual abuse)

9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry

7:00 pm: Ash Wednesday Liturgy

(Intention: For the courage to heed the Lenten call and to seek out the Sacrament of Reconciliation.)

Thursday, February 26

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 9:22-25 (violet)

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

(Intention: For Improved Health of Jim Wranek)

10:30 – 11:30 am: Staff Holy Hour

Mass Ministry Schedule

	Ash Wednesday (2/25) 7:00 pm	Saturday (2/28) 5:00 pm	Sunday (3/1) 9:00 am	Sunday (3/1) 6:00 pm
Bread Baker	Mary Blauvelt	Irene Daschel		
Altar Servers	B. Ehresmann (lead) H. Ehresmann E. Ehresmann	David Strand (lead) Curt Mahaffy Tyler Trautman	Kerry Wilson (lead) Andrew Corbine Mattias Didriksen	Megan Czmowski (lead) Kevin Chamberlain Taylor Thies
Precious Body	Diane Clarke	John Osnes	John Osnes	John Osnes
Precious Blood	Kevin Rohrbach Jean Schubauer Ken Van Asma Kathy Van Asma	Jacqui Blaha Jan Schurman Stephanie Strand Katie Strand	Lorinda Collings Christine Didriksen Pat Suiter Judy Wilson	Phillip Thompson John Wang Cathy Wang Brenda Czmowski
Lectors	Teresa Thompson Donna Boner	Steve Colgan Sue Colgan	Diane Clarke Donna Boner	Gina Czmowski Tamara Dyczek
Sacristans	John & Cathy Wang	Patty & Charlie Cresalia	Kathy & Ken Van Asma	The Blauvelt Family
Ushers	Frank Boner Duane Schubauer	Joyce Clark Pat Clark	Ken Wentz Becky Wentz	Robert Dyczek Kevin Rohrbach

Friday, February 27

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Matthew 9:14-15 (green)

No Daily Liturgy

5:00 – 7:00 pm Lenten Fish Fry

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday Morning, Feb. 28

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalms 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 5:27-32 (violet)

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

(Intention: For the Repose of Duke Deisch)

9:00 am - Noon: Food Pantry

Saturday Evening, Feb. 28

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15; Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (violet)

3:30 – 4:30 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation

5:00 pm: Sunday Liturgy (Intention: For the Repose of Dorothy Norman)

Sunday, March 1

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25; Psalms 41:2-3, 4-5, 13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Mark 2:1-12 (violet)

9:00 am: Sunday Liturgy

(Intention: For Our OLBH Community)

10:00 am: Coffee Hour hosted by the Knights of Columbus

10:00 am: First Communion Parent Meeting - Gathering Three: Eucharist

10:00 am: Music Ministers Meeting

6:00 pm: Sunday Liturgy

(Intention: For All Souls in Purgatory)

7:00 pm: Life Teen/Edge

7:00 pm: Confirmation Class

7:30 pm: Taize

Intercessory Prayers

Life and Health Concerns:

Kent Antonsen, Joe Creek, Alice Donley, Barbara Hatch, Don Higgins, Marvin Kari, Betty Kirker, Joni Osnes, Don Snyder, Gordon Stark and Jim Wranek

Repose: Dorothy Norman & Josephine Rodgers

Collection Report

February 14 & 15, 2009

Loose.....	\$ 1,419.75
Envelopes.....	2,431.20
Student	59.96
Adopt a Seminarian	275.00
Mass Intentions	40.00
Other	745.00
Total	\$ 4,970.91



Welcome!

Congratulations to Neveah Hied on receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, February 22 at OLBH!

For the Ride Home

by Ted Bergh

Scripture

- It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake, your offenses; your sins I remember no more. (Isaiah 43:25)
- Once I said, "O LORD, have pity on me; heal me, though I have sinned against you." (Psalm 41:5)
- For however many are the promises of God, their Yes is in him; (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." (Mark 2:11)

Reflection

- Do you have something in your past that you would like to be free from but cannot leave behind?
- Is there anything that God may forgive or help you to be freed from so you are released from its hold on you?
- Have you asked to be forgiven and accepted the Lord's grace to forgive?

The Greek word for forgiveness is *asphesis*, which means to liberate, to release from bondage; it means remission of debt, guilt and punishment. It is used when the prison door is opened and the prisoner can go free.

We humans are called to become free, to free others, to nurture life, to look for the worth and the beauty in each and every one of us, and to make our world a beautiful garden where each person and each society can create a harvest of flowers and fruits, and so prepare the seeds of peace for tomorrow.¹

¹ Vanier, Jean, *Becoming Human*, Paulist Press: Mahwah, NJ, 1998, p. 135.

From the Pro-Life Commission

"In the United States, thirty-four million people live below the official poverty line ... If all these people lived in one state, its population would be larger than the combined current populations of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Idaho, Iowa and Arizona."

A Place at the Table, Issued by USCCB, 2002. www.usccb.org (use search option)

*I think that if God forgives us we must
forgive ourselves. Otherwise it is almost like
setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal
than Him.*

CS Lewis



Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent

7:00 pm

Next Sunday's Readings

In the spirit of preparing for Sunday liturgy by reading the readings, responsorial psalm and Gospel in advance, the bulletin will include the texts for the upcoming Sunday's liturgy throughout Lent.

Reading 1: Genesis 9:8-15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. (cf. 10) **Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior. **R.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD. **R.**

Good and upright is the LORD, thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and he teaches the humble his way. **R.**

Reading II: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/readings/030109.shtml>

OLBH Parish News

Returning Catholics Ministry

This past Tuesday was the sixth and final session of the Returning Catholics Ministry for our first season. Cindy Thompson was our guest speaker on the Nicene Creed and she did a great job. Everyone joined in on the discussion and we all gained a better understanding of the creed. We thank Cindy for doing such a wonderful job. Even though this series has ended, the six week series will be repeated, starting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. The Returning Catholics Ministry is an ongoing ministry. If you know someone who should be invited back, or feel the calling to help in any way, please call Greg Sass at 348-2213 or the office at 787-5168.

Lenten Fish Fries

Join your parish family on Friday evenings during Lent from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a fish fry / bake. The proceeds will benefit various OLBH ministries.

Interested in hosting one of the tea tables?

The 2009 high tea has been scheduled for Saturday, April 18 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Would you like to host a table? If you are interested, please sign up in the gathering area and we will contact you with more information. Set up will be Friday, April 17 from noon - 9:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Judy at 484-3375.

Art Contest

The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring an art contest for the High Tea. Submit art work suitable for printing on the High Tea invitations. The art work should be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. Entries are to be sent to the church office by March 20, 2009.

The Lumko Method

The Sparks column referred to the Lumko Method that will be used during Lent with small groups. This section of the bulletin provides more detailed information on how this method works.

FIRST STEP: We invite the Lord

Once the group settles down, the facilitator asks someone to volunteer "to invite the Lord". The belief in the living presence of the Risen Christ in our midst is the presupposition and basis of our meditation.

We want to meet the Word who became flesh and dwells among us. We remember Jesus' promise: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them." (Mt 18,20).

SECOND STEP: We read the text

The facilitator announces the chosen text. First the book, then the chapter. He/she waits until everyone has found the chapter and only then does he/she announce the verse. When everyone has found the passage, the facilitator invites someone to volunteer to read the text. A moment of silence follows.

THIRD STEP: We dwell on the text

The facilitator continues: "We dwell on the text. Which words strike you in a special way?"

In doing so, almost the entire text is very listened to again. The participants spontaneously read aloud the word or words that have impressed them. Whole verses are not read, only short phrases or individual words.

The participants are encouraged to repeat those words silently to themselves three or four times. It is extremely important that a moment of silence be kept after each person has spoken, allowing the message to "soak in". As a result of this step, "simple" words often take on new meaning.

FOURTH STEP: We are quiet

After spending time on the individual word, the entire passage is read again slowly. Then the facilitator announces a time of silence, giving the exact length of time, for example, three minutes.

We advise the people to spend this time in silence before God. "We are open to God." "We allow ourselves to be loved by him." "We let God look at us." A helpful practice during this silence is to repeat a specific word.

Meditation: Simply to be open to God, to wait for him, to be with him, "in fact he is not far from any of us" (Acts 17,27).

FIFTH STEP: We share what we have heard in our hearts

After the time of quiet, the facilitator announces the next step: "We share with each other what we have heard in our hearts."

We do this to share with one another our faith experience and to help each other to grow in the faith. The entire Sacred Scripture is nothing less than a God experience which the People of Israel and Jesus "share" with us.

It is somewhat strange that we can talk to friends about almost every aspect of our life yet when it comes to sharing with others our experience with God, we become shy. In this Bible meditation method, however, anyone can learn "to risk" this sharing in a very natural and unpressured way.

SIXTH STEP: We search together

The facilitator announces: "We search together."

Now the time has come for the participants to examine their lives in the light of the Gospel. At this stage, a basic community might discuss everyday problems as:

Someone needs help in the neighborhood... Children need instruction in the faith... Who will lead the Service of the Word next Sunday, since the priest will not be there?...How can we settle a discord that has arisen?... What can we do about getting the street lamp repaired?...

None of these problems need to have a direct connection to the Bible passage which had been read and shared. However, they emerge and can be resolved because of the mutual confidence that now exists in an atmosphere of the presence of God. Things look different when God is allowed to be present.

SEVENTH STEP: We pray together

The facilitator now invites everyone to pray.

The words of Scripture, the various experiences of God's Word, the daily problems - these all become fuel for prayer. Some find this form of sharing in prayer the easiest way to communicate with others.

The participants are encouraged to incorporate in their personal prayer whatever has been of special importance to them during the meditation.

Updates from Hope for New Life Jail Ministry

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who responded to this ministry's Christmas wish list—a renewed supply of bibles & pieta prayer books will literally put hope in the hands of the many who attend our meetings during the coming year. In addition, the puzzles and games that were donated will be appreciated and used over and over again.

Your prayers and gifts in action:

The Sunday before Christmas, a special visit to ALL inmates included cookies, scripture readings, and testimonials. Tears, smiles, handshakes, and hugs made a lasting impression about how thankful these people were to be remembered on the holiday.

Moving into 2009, our Wednesday evening meetings continue to attract a wide scope of women—from those with a Catholic background to those who are seeking to find a relationship with Jesus for the first time. Never a week goes by that these women do not express written thanks for the volunteers who come to spend time with them. This ministry is made possible through the prayers and support of our parish, so we want to make sure this appreciation is passed on and shared with you all.

Lastly, we are pleased to share that Hope For New Life will be expanding, offering a program for men inmates as well. There is always a need for additional volunteers. The commitment is two to three evenings per month. For more information, please contact Tony Galles at 348-2301 or Mary Sperlich at 342-9343.

Diocesan News

Lectio Divina Workshop – Note Date Correction

Pray the Scriptures using the method of Lectio Divina: Lectio Divina is prayerfully reading the Bible, the book Christians believe to be divinely inspired. This method of prayer deepens our relationship with God in a natural way. As we encounter God in the word, our minds and hearts become slowly transformed, deepening our relationship with the Father. **March 21, 2009**, Benedict Hall, St. Martin Monastery 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Offering of \$20.00 includes lunch and handouts. Registration is necessary. Sister Marmion Howe, (605) 343-2688

Big Sale

St. Martin Monastery is having a big antique, Household, Book and Yarn SALE on February 28th from 9 AM to 4 PM. This sale has items not offered in our recent sales. Included are beds, retro furniture, and some sets of matching furniture as well as table settings and much more. Phone (605) 343-8011

2009 Ash Wednesday Appeal

On Ash Wednesday, February 25th, a collection is taken in parishes throughout the diocese to support the many programs and services provided by Catholic Social Services. We thank you for your sacrifice during these difficult economic times. We ask that you prayerfully consider your gifts, so together; we can continue to be instruments of God's redeeming love, serving those less fortunate and providing hope to those who are discouraged. If you wish, you may mail your donation directly to CSS, 918 5th St, Rapid City, SD 57701 or use the e-tithing form located on the contribution envelope.

Property for Sale by the Diocese

Real estate for sale by Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which includes a house and 2 garages and 8 lots located at 3 & 11 E Quincy St. The land is close to SD School of Mines & Technology, asking \$100,000. Please contact Beth Strain at Cathedral Rectory at 520 Cathedral Drive, 342-0507 or email beth@cathedralolph.org.

The Pope is on the Web

Listen to the speeches of Pope Benedict XVI on his YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/vatican. The pope also has many thousands of friends on his Facebook page, "His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI." The Vatican is using the new media to broaden and unite the pope's audience.

4th Degree Knights of Columbus Meeting

The 4th Degree Knights of Columbus meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Therese the Little Flower Church in Rapid City.

Common Sense Parenting Class

Thursday, February 26, will be the first meeting for a new *Common Sense Parenting* six week class. The course offers parents practical ideas and techniques for raising happy, well-adjusted children. It focuses on the parent/child relationship and stresses the important role parents play as guides to their children. The classes will meet at the St Francis of Assisi Church, 1049 Howard St, Sturgis from 5:30-7:30 PM. For more information, or to register, call 1-800-727-2401 or 348-6086. To inquire via email send questions to: css@rapidnet.com.

Buletín Noticiero Entre Amigos

Provee Prespectiva Hispana

Entre Amigos es un boletín mensual que mira las noticias y eventos de la iglesia en una perspectiva hispana. Se envía en español e inglés cada día 15 del mes. Para recibir esta columna gratuita, mande un correo electrónico a mmuñoz-visoso@usccb.org, y pida que lo pongan en la lista de distribución de *Entre Amigos*. Boletines enviados recientemente también pueden ser pedidos. *Entre Amigos* es un proyecto de la Alianza Hispana para Vida y Familia y es ofrecida por la Oficina de Relaciones de Medios de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los E.E.U.U.

Diocesan News (cont.)

Job Opening – Youth Director

The Cathedral is hiring a Youth Director. The position of Youth Director is responsible for developing a comprehensive youth ministry program for all middle and high school age parishioners to include weekly formation gatherings, Confirmation program and deeper growth opportunities, curriculum development, recruitment/training/support of volunteers in the formation program, fundraisers, retreats and prayer experiences, attendance at meetings, preparation of yearly budget. Position is full time. Degree and/or experience in catechetical formation are desirable. Organizational and motivational skills are required. Competitive salary and benefits package available. Contact the rectory office at 605-342-0507 for an application and job description. Resumes can be e-mailed to beth@cathedralolph.org. Completed application and resume can be sent to:

Parish Administrator
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
520 Cathedral Drive
Rapid City, SD 57701

Faith Formation for Young Adults

Diocese of Rapid City Ministry Formation Program
8-week Pilot Programs launched from the current lay ministry formation program: one in Rapid City and one in the Northern Hills area. Sessions will begin the first week of March and end the last week of April, 2009. (*Times and places will be determined by participant's locations and needs*). Participants must be in 20's, 30's, early 40's. No more than 12 people in each program. Gather together once a week for 2 hours. (*Preparation for gathering requires about 20 min. each day to read and pray with the lesson and scripture*). This is not a lecture-based class, but a facilitated gathering of faith-sharing and questioning. Address inquiries to: Pat Roe 723-0972 pat.roe@st-bh.com

Rapid City Catholic School System

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Preschool-Elementary-Middle School/St. Thomas More High School New Catholic Family Registration for the 2009-10 School Year PRESCHOOL – 12TH GRADE will be on February 24, 2009 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Office, 431 Oakland St, Rapid City, SD 57701. For more information, contact: Marcia Werner at (605) 343-8484 or (605) 348-1477

"Developing Personal and Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition."

Marriage Matters

"Marriage Matters" a one day workshop on developing communication skills for a strong and loving Christian marriage, will be presented by Catholic Social Services. Whether you're newlywed or long-married, the workshop will focus on developing communication and conflict resolution skills that can make all the difference between a difficult marriage and a loving partnership. Held at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, SD from 9:00-4:00 pm. \$30 per couple. Lunch will be provided. Non-denominational. Preregistration required by February 25. Contact Catholic Social Services at 605-348-6086, 800-727-2401 or www.catholic-social-services.net

Praying Lent This Year Online Ministry

Praying Lent This Year guides Catholics through Lent so that their hearts and minds are renewed and they grow in their relationship with God. Provided by the Collaborative Ministry Office at Creighton University, *Praying Lent This Year* is posted on the diocesan Web site at www.rapidcitydiocese.org. Resources include preparing for Lent, daily prayers and reflections, readings, and celebrating Easter.

*Dust thou art, and into
dust thou shalt return.*

Genesis 3:19

Encountering Life Alone

Beginning Experience® Separated & Divorced Support Group, - Level I "ENCOUNTERING LIFE ALONE". Are you recently separated or divorced? Are you struggling with the pain and loneliness? Healing can begin with the next the nine-week session separated and divorced support group. The group starts at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12th at St. Therese the Little Flower Church in Rapid City. It is non-denominational and open to all Christian men and women who are hurting due to separation or divorce. Pre-registration is requested! Registration fee is \$25.00. Need-based scholarships available. For more information and to pre-register, call Jill at Family Life Ministries, 343-3541.

Men, mark your calendars!

Annual Diocesan Men's Retreat, "WALK WITH JESUS", March 20-22, 2009 at Storm Mountain Center, Rapid City! Did you ever think how awesome it would have been to walk with Jesus while he was on earth? Join Msgr. William O'Connell for this year's retreat where retreatants will reflect on some who did walk with Jesus and what they have to teach us as we walk with him today. Pre-registration required! *Deadline: Friday, March 13th*! Registration fee: \$100. Need-based scholarships available. For more information, contact Jill or Kathy at Family Life Ministries, 343-3541.

Rachel's Corner

All powerful God, help us to follow the teachings and example of St. Peter Damian. By making Christ and the service of His Church the first love of our lives, may we come to the joys of eternal light. - St. Peter Damian; Feast: February 21

If you are hurting from an abortion, pray to St. Peter Damian, the Saint of the Poor, and come to know the joys of eternal light. Take a step out in faith and join us at the next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™ in Bismarck, ND February 27-March 1, 2009. Healing and hope awaits you. Contact Carol Kling for information about area retreats at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com or go to the diocesan website:

www.rapidcitydiocese.org/Ministries/FamilyLife.htm.

For more information, contact the national office at 877-467-3463 or www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Youth & Family News

Kids' Corner

Children's Way of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent, Our Lady of the Black Hills will be offering Stations of the Cross. As a way to teach our children about our Catholic faith and traditions, we would like to have the children involved with leading Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 3. We invite everyone in the parish to join us this evening. If your elementary, middle school or high school child would like to help, please have them sign up in the Gathering Area. Parents who want to help are also welcomed! For more information, please call Teresa Thompson, 787-5168

❖ **Pick up the Children's Bulletin for your age (Age 3-6 or 7-12) and complete the activities.**
(Located in the gathering area on the counter)

Family Activities

Mardi Gras: Tradition and Celebration

Considering present day Mardi Gras celebrations, it might surprise you to learn that the festival has religious roots. Festivities start in New Orleans each year on January 6, the Twelfth Night feast of the Epiphany, and the day it is believed the three kings first visited Jesus Christ.

Mardi Gras Party Popper

Materials Needed:

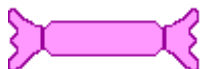
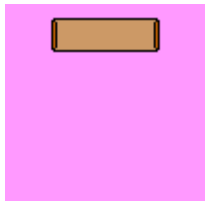
- Toilet Tissue Roll Tissue Paper
- Tape
- Curling Ribbon
- Small gifts for inside your popper



Instructions:

You should use a combination of purple, green, and gold tissue paper and ribbon since these are traditional Mardi Gras colors.

Cut a piece of tissue paper into a 12-inch square. Lay the toilet tissue roll onto the square as shown below. Tape the edge of the tissue paper onto the side of the toilet tissue roll. Roll the toilet tissue up in the tissue paper tightly. Secure the ends with tape. You should have 3-4 inches of tissue paper hanging off each end of the toilet tissue roll. Cut 2 pieces of curling ribbon, each one at least 12 inches long. Gather the tissue paper on one of the toilet tissue roll and tie it with the ribbon. Fill your popper (toilet tissue roll) with small candies and trinkets such as beads and plastic doubloons. Gather the tissue on the other end of the toilet tissue roll and tie it with a ribbon. Voila, you now have fun, colorful party poppers!



Edge

Sunday following the 6:00 pm Mass; All Middle & High School Youth welcome!

The middle school youth will develop a deeper awareness of the season of Lent; its traditions and significance to the spiritual life of a Christian.

Life Teen

Sunday following the 6:00 pm Mass; All Middle & High School Youth welcome!

This weekend the high school students will experience an Issue Night called DESERT-ED. The goal for the night is to help the teens understand how the season of Lent calls us out of the garden and into the desert with Christ for a time of preparation and purification. This night will also help the teens experience through the five senses the changes that happen during Lent within the Church.

Gatherings of Grace

Ash Wednesday starts the Lenten season this Wednesday, February 25th. As followers of Christ, we are called to Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Get out your home packets and use the great resources to guide you through Lent this year. For example, the Lenten Prayer chain can be used with your family. Get out the colorful pages and cut them in strips. Place the strips in a basket and place on your dinner table. At meal time, pull a strip out and follow the challenge. Each day, pull out a new strip and attach it to the chain.

Also, last week you received in the bulletin a Catholic Update, "Ordinary Things, *Sacred Meaning*". Youth and adults may use either one of these daily reflections to help you come closer to Christ.

Keep watching your bulb! What is it doing? Be patient, as with the bulb, prayer also takes time.

There is a nice display of books on "Prayer" outside the library; check them out!